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# JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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Volume IV, #3

Fall 1992

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## "AN INTERESTING VARIETY"

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Published quarterly, and dedicated to bringing together people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series within the numismatic community.

— Steve Epstein, Publisher - *Barber Coin Collectors' Society Journal*

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Any dealer or collector member in good standing of the Barber Coin Collectors' Society who is at least 18 years of age may place advertising in the Society's *Journal*. Minors under the age of 18 must first provide a "certificate of responsibility" from their parent or guardian before any advertising can be placed.

Only ads for Barber coins and associated supplies are permitted, although advertisers may provide generic descriptions of any other coins they sell. Mail bid advertising cannot be accepted.

The Publisher reserves the right to edit or decline advertising that is in conflict with BCCS bylaws. Unless otherwise specified in the ad, advertisers must accept the return of merchandise in the original holders that bears a postmark within 7 business days of the receipt by the customer. Any purchaser wanting to get an independent opinion of any coin must first notify the advertiser within the applicable time that the merchandise can be returned.

All advertisers must properly describe the condition of all coins advertised. Unless otherwise noted, the grading description of all coins will be in accordance with the "Official ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins."

Articles, questions, comments and ads are welcome and should be forwarded to: V.P. Research, 1438 Noah Rd., North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

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### CLASSIFIED ADS

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Any member may run a classified ad in the *Journal*. The rules as well as the deadline are much the same as for display advertising. The cost is 10 cents per word, with a \$3.00 minimum. Words count as follows: Date & mint-mark - 1 word; name initials - 1 word; address # - 1 word; zip code - 1 word.

If you have Barbers you want to buy or sell and don't need a lot of space to do it, the *Classified Section* is for you.

## We Need Your Articles!!!

The BCCS *Journal* needs your input! If you've got some information to share with the rest of the Society, we'd like to publish it.

Please send submissions (handwritten, typed double-spaced and/or on-diskette) to:

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## ON THE COVER

### 1900-O DIME WITH MINTMARK POSITIONED FAR LEFT

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By Bill Harris

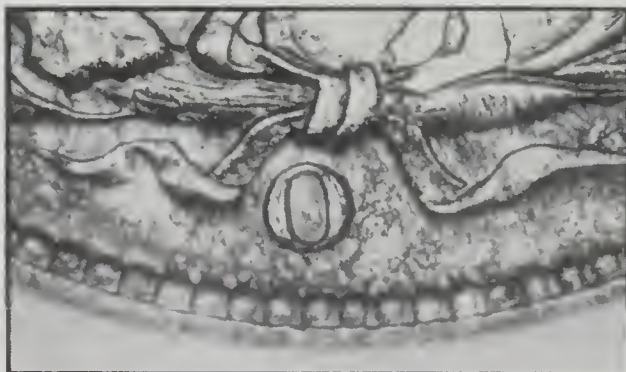
This journal features much information about Barber varieties. Among them is the 1900-O which is one of those branch mint dimes that is recognized as having multiple mintmark placements. As expected, the most prevalent placement is upright, and centered under the ribbon knot. However, in Walter Breen's *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, the author cites two references additional mintmark variations, the "O far left" and the "O leaning crazily left." It's not clear whether these are different varieties. Lot 529 in the Allen F. Lovejoy Collection Auction held by Stack's was an example with the O mintmark positioned far left.

My coin pictured below has the mintmark positioned far left similar to the Lovejoy coin. A more exact description of the mintmark position would be that the right exterior edge of the O is slightly right of the center line in the ribbon knot and leans left.

My examination of the obverse and reverse surfaces of the coin did not yield any additional distinguishing characteristics.

Since the scarcity of the latter two mintmark variations is not known, this could possibly be addressed in future Barber dime surveys.

The coin was photographed by Tom Mulvaney.



1900-O Dime: Mintmark Shifted Left

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## CORRECTION

### LITERARY AWARD VOTE

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The Society wishes to take this opportunity to apologize for omitting John Gardner's article ("History of a Collection: Hunting Some Selected Better Date Barber Quarters" Fall '91 Journal) from the list recently published to help members vote for literary awards. If members wish to cast a vote for this article they may do so whether or not they have already voted and an additional award will be granted if the votes equal or exceed those already credited to the three awards granted. (Please see "Literary Award Winners Announced at ANA Convention" on page 6 of this Journal.)



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## ANA GENERAL MEETING

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### LITERARY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT ANA CONVENTION

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The Barber Society General Meeting at the 1992 Summer ANA in Orlando began with the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation by Randy Campbell of the ANA recognizing our Society's "outstanding contribution to numismatics."

Steve Epstein then told the audience that 650 of the 1,000 Society Commemorative medals minted have already been sold. Medals will remain available for sale throughout the remainder of 1992. Any medals unsold by year end will be melted to ensure the Society has enough money in the Treasury to cover year end journal expenses.

Epstein also announced that at the end of 1994 the society will publish its first hardcover anthology including in one volume all articles published during the Society's first five years.

The Society also recognized David Lawrence for donating all profits from sales of 10 leather bound Barber Book trilogies he published. Profits so far from these books are approaching \$500.

Jerry Kochel, Eastern Region Vice President, announced that the Society's next eastern regional meeting will be held in conjunction with the Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association's (MANA's) 40th annual coin convention to be held at the Lantern Lodge Motor Inn in Myerstown, Pa. on Saturday, October 17 at 1 p.m.

David Lawrence then mentioned that he will be updating his Barber Quarter book in the near future, and welcomes members with interesting varieties to contact him for possibly including pictures of these varieties in his revised book.

One member asked that the Society research and publish an article on the striking characteristics of all Barbers in each of the three denominations. Finally, the results of the meeting for the Society's first Literary Awards were announced. They are as follows:

- |             |  |             |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| <b>1st:</b> | "The Barber Dime Wreath," Russell Easterbrooks;  | Vol. III #2 |
| <b>2nd:</b> | "Barber Quarters and Halves, The Difference as Revealed,"<br>Peter Haishun;  | Vol. III #2 |
| <b>3rd:</b> | "BCCS 1895-O Dime Survey: Condition Census Results and a Possible<br>High Grade Example of the Hair Thin Mintmark Variety,"<br>J.T. Donohue; | Vol. III #2 |

Congratulations to the winners!

The meeting adjourned with the announcement that the next general meeting will be held at the Fun show next January.



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## A LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS

*By Joe Haney*

Rather than address this letter to the editor, I am addressing it to all members of the Barber Coin Collectors Society because it is decision making time again. Well not quite decision time yet, but rather suggestion and recommendation time.

Some time ago information was passed around to a few members to feel out the possibility of having medallions, medals, or buttons, using the Barber theme, made up for club members or for that matter, anyone interested. There is a company that offers to work closely with the club to design, make a die to our specifications, and manufacture medals/buttons in any number of formats, at a price that almost seems too good to be true. I'm talking about two to three bucks a medal/button, plus or minus change. A brochure was passed around showing all kinds of shapes, colors, and sizes to pick from.

Once a die design is picked and a size agreed upon, the company will make up the medals/ buttons and mount them on almost anything we want. Want a tie tack or a lapel pin? No problem. How about a pendent with a loop to hang around your neck? No problem, they will even supply the chain at a nominal price. Money clips can be had and if I remember correctly, they can also make up belt buckles. The medals/buttons can be round, oblong, square, rectangular, or whatever shape we dream up. Enameling can be gold, silver, red, blue, white,



or any other color or combination of the above. This is what we as club members have to decide. First of all, do we want to consider the possibility of the medal/buttons? If so, what motif? What size and shape? And last of all, what color or colors? We need your input. You have to let us know. Drop a letter or post card with your thoughts. Talk to other members in your locale with whom you collaborate. Put your heads together and send your general consensus. A simple yes or no will suffice for now, with perhaps a few of your thoughts.

This proposal is just something else to try to tie the club together. A lapel pin worn at a show can bring a couple of unsuspecting members together or even attract a new member or two. I, myself would like one fastened on the case I carry to shows, auctions, and club meetings. To me, it's an expression of interests without having to say a word. Without being gaudy, color must be strong enough, along with size and shape to attract attention. My thoughts, and they are mine alone, are for a medal/button the size and design of the Barber quarter. All of the devices would be white or silver on a blue background. Around the outer edge (which of course would increase the over all size), the club logo spelled out (BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY), in raised white letters on a different blue background. The founding date (1989) can be added at the bottom. Do we have any designers among us? If so, please help.

An initial order of a couple of hundred pieces is all we would have to commit to at the present. It would probably cost around \$500.00. With the die already made, there would be no problem ordering more on short notice. Again, your input is needed. In order to take a little pressure off of our editor, please send your thoughts to me at 2832 Jefferson Ave., Ardsley, PA 19038. Your name would be greatly appreciated so we can expand on your ideas if found to be what we are looking for. At least your club number, please. If you would rather deal directly with Steve in order to keep your identity more private, so be it. I am sure he would be interested in hearing from each and every one of you.

Please write 'buttons' somewhere on the envelope. I expect to get swamped with letters so please don't look for a personal reply. I will, however, submit your thoughts and my findings to Steve and report back to you in a future Journal.

If only the rest of the world got along as well together as the members of the BCCS. Your spontaneous and always interesting and enlightening replies to inquiries is really a breath of fresh air in a dog eat dog world. I wish you all the best in your pursuit of Barber coins.





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## TREASURY REPORT

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<b>Opening Balance</b>	Jan. 1, 1992		\$ 83.16
<b>Receipts</b>	Dues	\$ 4,862.00	
	Advertising	800.00	
	Back-issue Sales	271.00	
	Comm. Medal Sales	748.00	
	Misc.	18.45	
	<b>Total</b>		<u>6,699.45</u>
<b>Funds Available</b>			<b>\$ 6,782.61</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	Journal Printing	\$ 4,157.96	
	Postage	259.93	
	Misc. Printing	160.00	
	Rentals	109.50	
	Commem. Mailing	64.44	
	Research Expense	32.92	
	Bank Charges	5.28	
	<b>Total</b>		<u>\$ 4,790.03</u>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	June 30, 1992		<b><u>\$ 1,992.58</u></b>

*Paul Reuter,*  
*Treasurer*

*Treasurer Note: Society holds approx. \$1,600.00 worth of commemoratives at bullion value.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Russell Easterbrooks and Scott Brockelman have graciously offered to help J.T. Donohue with the Barber Dime Survey. J.T. will contact them to see how they can be of assistance.
- Central Region Vice President Jay Ordoyne and Eastern Region Vice President Gerald Kochel have joined the Barber Quarter Survey team. Many thanks to Russell, Scott, Jay and Jerry.
- Reminder: There's still time to submit your Barber 50¢ survey form to: Len Ariagno, BCCS Half Dollar Survey, 692 Elm Street, Somerset, MA 02276.



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New York, NY	September 12	August 28
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Tampa, FL	November 5	October 23
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# BARBER HALF DOLLAR: EIGHT DATE/MINT SURVEY

*by Leonard Ariagno, Peter Haishun & Thomas Woodworth*

## INTRODUCTION

The Barber Half Dollar Survey Team is pleased to present the following results from its recent Eight (8) Date/Mint Survey. The results are presented on a preliminary basis in that additional responses may be forthcoming. This may warrant a necessary update of the information presented herein.

## SURVEY BACKGROUND

The selection of the 8 dates/mints was based on the scarcest issues in XF/AU (R5 and R6), and F/VF (R4 and R5) listed in the Volume III; Summer 1991 BCCS *Journal*.

The selection of these 8 issues simply represented a starting point from which this study could begin. Other so-called second tier dates may be arguably scarcer in the opinions of others. The 1893-S, 1901-O, 1913-P, 1914-P, and 1915-P are but a few additional issues that may warrant consideration for future study.

Another reason supporting this approach of selecting scarce issues in F/VF and XF/AU rather than those in lower grades is the accepted fact that rarity increases rapidly in the higher grades. This is especially true if one applies “problem free, original condition” as a criteria in selecting specimens for one’s collection. Analysis of the survey results will be presented in the next issue.

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS: BARBER HALF DOLLAR, 8 DATE/MINT SURVEY

DATE/ MINT	TOTAL	AG 1-3	G 4-7	VG 8-11	F 12-19	VF 20-39	XF 40-49	AU 50-59	MS 60	MS 61	MS 62	MS 63	MS 64	AVE. GRADE	MED. <sup>3</sup> GRADE	%PROB CLEANED	%PROB TOTAL
1896-O	41		13	7	9	3	4	4			1			F18	VG10	36%	51%
1896-S	37	3	6	6	7	6	5	4						VF20	F12	35%	38%
1897-O	39		10	8	5	9	3	4						F19	F13	33%	41%
1897-S	38	1	5	14	5	6	2	3	1		1			F19	VG8	29%	42%
1898-O	50		13	9	11	5	2	8	1				1	VF20	F14	26%	38%
1901-S	47		13	12	7	4	4	5		1	1			F18	VG8	23%	42%
1904-S	40		13	12	5	5	2	3						F15	VG8	42%	52%
1907-S	82	3	16	32	16	6	4	4				1		F13	VG8	24%	34%
S/S VAR <sup>1</sup>	23		9	8	5	1								F11	VG8	30%	35%
TOTAL BY GRADE	374	7	89	100	65	44	26	35	2	1	3	1	1				
GRADE % vs POP		1.9%	23.8%	26.7%	17.4%	11.8%	7.0%	9.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.8%	0.3%	0.3%				

1 Included in total for 1907-S, above.

2 AVG- Available in sum of all dates weighted by the number in each guide and then divided by the total number for the date.

3 Med.- Median, or middle value of the data in the category.





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## BARBER COINS: OVER A 40 YEAR LOVE AFFAIR

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*By Tom Woodworth*

### Part II

As mentioned at the conclusion of Part I of my article in the last issue of the *Journal*, my plan to create funds for the purchase of coins, especially Barbers, was to search through rolls of coins of all denominations and pull out those which had numismatic value. In the early 1960's one could find many wheat cents dated 1909 onward and an occasional Indian head cent. Buffalos with 4-digit dates, early Jeffersons in EF-AU condition and war nickels were all common finds. Ninety per cent silver coins were still being minted, so only early pre-1934 Mercury dimes, Standing Liberty quarters in fine or better, mint-marked Washington quarters from the thirties, and early Liberty Walking halves from 1916 to 1936 were kept out.

As a college student in the mid 60's the expense of tuition limited the funds which I had available for purchasing coins. I probably never spent more than \$10 for a Barber coin until the summer of 1965. During a stop at a local coin store, my breath was taken away by an EF-AU 1892-O Barber half lying in the display case. The coin carried a nerve racking price of \$65. Without telling my parents, I spent the next couple of days figuring out a plan to come up with the money. I scraped together \$17 in gift money, withdrew \$24 from my bank account, and turned in 12 rolls of war nickels for cash. It took awhile for me to justify this expenditure to myself, but the pleasure I have received from owning this beautiful half dollar has more than compensated for the price. This event taught me to plan ahead for future Barber purchases.

In that same year, 1965, I began opening bank rolls of dimes, quarters, and halves to find more of those copper-nickel clad coins mixed with those superb 90% silver coins. I saved as many dimes, including Roosevelts, as I could afford. By the time I graduated in January, 1968 with a major in secondary mathematics education, silver coins of any denomination were becoming increasingly difficult to find.

As the price paid for bulk silver began to heat up, my purchase of Barber coins also began to heat up in the early 1970's. Major acquisitions between 1973 and 1975 included: a VG+ 1896-S quarter for \$135, a F 1892-S half for \$68, a VF 1893-S half for \$80, a VF 1897-S half for \$130, and an EF 1897-O half for \$140.

In early 1976, with 35 Barber coins needed to complete my collection, my focus turned to purchasing the most expensive pieces, since they showed the greatest price increases. Of course, my attention was centered on acquiring the 1901-S quarter in fine or better condition. Good fortune was with me. During the summer of 1976, I found a VF advertised in *Coin World* for \$650. The price was definitely a gigantic step up the coin purchasing ladder for me. Buying coins

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sight-unseen had never been very successful for me, but the 1901-S was definitely all I had hoped for when it arrived. This purchase greatly depleted my coin purchasing fund.

Replenishing that money through searching rolls of coins was no longer a very efficient method. My interest in creating new funds and the possibility of finding silver coins caused me to look into the world of metal detecting. The outlay of two to three hundred dollars for a detect machine greatly discouraged me. However, in August 1977, I did purchase my first White's detector and have never been sorry that I did. More on this later.

My set of circulated Barber coins came to completion between 1976 and 1980. The last quarter purchased was the 1913-S. This acquisition came about a bit strangely. I had successfully bid on a 1903-S quarter in fine condition in late 1976 from an advertisement which also contained a 1913-S quarter in fine condition. After the purchase of the 1901-S earlier that year, I was in no financial position to purchase a 1913-S. One year later, I wrote to the party who had placed the advertisement in 1976 and received a letter informing me that the 1913-S was still available for \$390. It now proudly resides in my collection. My set of halves was completed in 1979 by picking up a 1906-S in VF for \$25.

The last Barber coin needed was the 1901-S Barber dime. I had been trying to find one in at least fine condition. At a coin show in 1980, there it was. As I asked the dealer the price, he said, "\$17." I said, "Did you say \$70?" He said, "Don't I wish!" So, I walked off with a \$17 beauty.

You might think that the completion of my circulated sets with its immediate sense of accomplishment foreshadowed a later loss of interest. Such was not the case.

A new era of Barber coin collecting began for me in 1981 with the purchase of a 1904-P Barber dime in AU for \$19. My current challenge is to complete AU-UNC dime set. The funds necessary for such an endeavor are substantial to say the least. Current *Coin World* Trends total to \$12,295.50 for all 74 pieces in AU-50 condition. This averages out to \$166.15 per coin with 21 above this average and 53 below it.

The thrill of finding a Barber coin under the ground is as great as finding that long sought after piece at a coin show. Therefore, metal detecting is still a source of the funding for my Barber coins. As of this writing, I have found over 39,000 coins including over 1,200 silver pieces. Among them were 49 Barbers: 37 dimes, 10 quarters, and 2 halves. My best Barber finds have been a VG 1895-S dime, a VF 1916-D quarter, and an EF 1902-P half.

My forty year love affair with Barber coinage has provided me with many happy occasions: the thrill experienced in 1957 when my mother gave me an 1892-O dime; the breath-taking moment in 1965 when I bought that 1892-O half; the excitement of acquiring a VF 1901-S quarter in 1976; and the astonishment at digging up an EF 1902 half in 1982. My perennial infatuation with Barbers produced yet another exhilarating moment at the 1991 ANA Show in



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Rosemont, Illinois where I purchased four nice Barber dimes including an AU 1895-S. But the best was yet to come: after attending the BCCS meeting on Saturday, August 17, I hit the bourse floor and wandered up to a table of rare coins. There laid the most beautiful gem BU 1893-S Barber half that I had ever seen! With money accumulated from metal detecting and recycling, I was able to purchase the \$1500 coin. It epitomizes the excitement and the artistic beauty that Barber coins have represented to me for over 40 years.

In conclusion, I hope my recollections of my Barber coin "Love Affair" have caused you, my fellow BCCS members, to recall moment that you have enjoyed with this beautiful series of United States coins. My hope for the future is for members of the BCCS to be able to bring their most prized pieces or collections together to be visually shared with other members and with the numismatic community at large.

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## JOIN A CLUB TODAY

*By Russell Easterbrooks*

*The following is an article submitted to Numismatic News by one of our members which appeared in the publication's August 25 "Viewpoint" column. It is reprinted here with their permission.*

I have collected Barber dimes for many years but always found a lack articles on this subject. So I started building a library, buying every book I could find, new or old, that had any information on Barber coinage.

In a few years I had put together a good-sized library and found a lot of valuable information. I also found I enjoyed research as much as I do collecting.

However, many of my questions about how rare some Barber dimes are and what varieties existed were still unanswered. I quickly realized Barber coinage is under-researched.

In spring 1989 a group of collectors got together and started the Barber Coin Collectors Society. This society was formed to share information and increase knowledge among its members and the numismatic community.

In almost three years the society's membership has gone from a small handful of collectors to almost 600. Its quarterly journal is full of articles, questions and answers, comments, varieties, and much more. Its rarity surveys have uncovered many sleepers, and many new varieties have been found.

As a contributing editor, my research is now turned to articles for its journal that other Barber collectors can enjoy.

There are a great many coin organizations available to the collector today.

Like the Barber society, these organizations were established by collectors for the benefit of members.

Membership dues are used to support the club and its journals. These journals are full of what you want to read, articles on what you collect, ads with what you want buy, and answers to your questions.

If you do research, write an article and send it to your club. The satisfaction of contributing more than just dues is overwhelming when you see your article printed in your club's journal.

The BCCS has helped me to be a more knowledgeable collector. It can work the same for you.

So get involved. Join a club today.

*Russell Easterbrooks is a collector from Worcester, VT.*

*Viewpoint is a forum for the expression of opinion on a variety of numismatic subjects. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of Numismatic News. To have your opinion considered for Viewpoint, write Editor, Numismatic News, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990.*



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	1906-O NGC MS63 Bright with peripheral toning.....	385.
	1907-S ANACS MS61 Bright, undergraded .....	275.
	1912-S ANACS MS62 Bright, PQ.....	190.
25¢	1901 ANACS MS62 Bright .....	160.
	1903 PCGS MS60 Light toning, PQ coin.....	190.
	1907-O ANACS MS61 Bright, nice .....	200.
	1915-S PCGS MS62 Toned obv; Bright rev .....	265.
50¢	1892-O PCGS MS62 Bright to lightly toned .....	810.
	1894-O PCGS MS61 Light toning .....	450.
	1900-O INS MS65 Lt. original toning .....	1,400.
	1905 ANACS AU58 .....	335.
	1907-O NGC MS62 Lots of luster under toning.....	470.
	1907-D NGC MS63 Bright .....	625.
	1912-D ANACS VF35.....	70.

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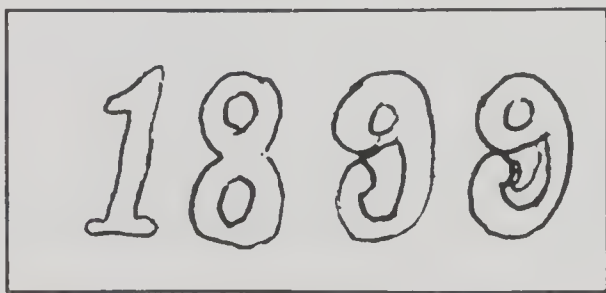
## BARBER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

by J.T. Donohue

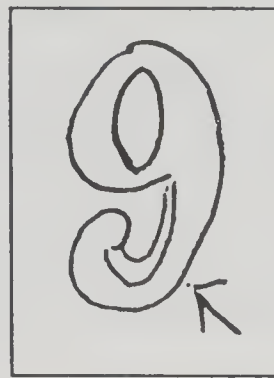
This column is designed to handle members' questions about Barber Coinage and it is especially geared to answering questions about Barber Die Varieties. With this purpose in mind, I was able to "recruit" two noted authorities to provide expertise on the subject and to confirm members' discoveries. Joe Haney contributed most of the die variety listings in David Lawrence's book on Barber Dimes. In addition to being a frequent contributor to our journal, Joe is a consummate "cherry picker" of rare die varieties in all series. Our other expert is Jack Beymer, who was a consultant for ANACS when it was a part of the ANA. When it comes to Barber Die Varieties, Jack's probably the most knowledgeable coin dealer in the business. His own personal collection includes unlisted varieties in nearly every series.

Now let's proceed to specific member questions that have been forwarded to me for answers. Shelby Parsons of Louisville, KY has an AU-58 1899 Quarter with the final 9 repunched. He also reports swelling on Miss Liberty's neck underneath her hair. This sounds much like the "mumps" effect seen on O-mint Barber Halves and Quarters with the difference being that the swelling on the "mumps" coins occurs along and underneath the jaw where it meets the neck rather than underneath the hair. Breen ascribes the mumps phenomena to die failure and that is probably the cause of the anomaly reported by Shelby as well. Joe Haney has seen no P mint quarters with this feature and it is not listed in Breen's *Encyclopedia* or David Lawrence's book on Barber Quarters. However, this die failure takes on added significance as we will see in a minute.

As for the repunched 9, Jack Beymer has a similar 1899-P Quarter which grades XF-45. The last nine is clearly repunched in the way Shelby describes (see accompanying sketch below). There also appears to be a hint of a "shadow" (i.e. a faint second image) in the first nine as well as the one in the date. Both coins may very well be later die states of Breen #4161, listed as a double date 1899-P Quarter. As such, they can probably be considered scarce and probably should command a slight premium. Interestingly, Jack reports die crumbling between the point of the bust and the adjacent star. Shelby, why don't you check your coin again for this characteristic? I'll bet that if your piece and Jack's piece are from the same die, which seems likely if the die on your coin has deteriorated enough to show swelling on Liberty's neck, then signs of die failure should also be evident in the same place as on Jack's coin as well.



1899-P Quarter  
Sketch with  
Repunched 9



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The reverse of Jack's 1899 Quarter shows evidence of die crumbling on the ribbon inscribed "E Pluribus Unum" and between the letter E in the motto and the D of UNITED. I have just learned that Joe has found an AU example which is probably an earlier die state of the two preceding coins. He describes it as follows:

*The 8-9-9 all show nice repunching inside to the right in lower loops and fainter repunching to the right in the upper loops of the 8 and 9. The 1 shows traces of another punch in front of the serif...*

This coin is apparently the double date described as Breen 4161. Although Breen calls it extremely rare, there are probably other specimens out there waiting to be discovered.

Interestingly, Jack also has an 1899-S Quarter with the last nine doubled south. It will be listed as Breen #4161a in a revised edition of the *Encyclopedia*. Those of you who own 1899-P or S Quarters in Fine or better might want to check such pieces for evidence of repunching in the date and let us know if you "lucked out."

Next, comes a letter from John Zitz of Platte City, Missouri with a detailed description of the date numerals on his AU 1908-D Dime. Space does not permit me to fully replicate his description here, but John felt that the undertypes present in the last three figures of the date might be evidence of an overdate on his coin. However, both Joe and Jack agree that John's coin is #L103 as listed in David Lawrence's Barber Dime book. Joe concludes that the features which John felt to be indicative of an overdate actually show a triple date whereby the date punch was impressed into the die in three different positions. The key feature for this variety is what John calls a "flare spike" on the left outside edge of the upper loop of the 8 between nine and ten o'clock. The scarcity and premium of this variety has not yet been determined.

B.C.C.S. member John Cardinal from New Hampshire has written us about two coins which he owns. He has a BU 1898-S Dime which he believes may carry a repunched mintmark. In all probability the second S on John's coin is not a second S repunched into the die (i.e. an RPM) but rather the product of ejection doubling, also known as die chatter.

Ejection doubling is very common on S mint dimes of the 1890's and this feature gives the coin no additional value. John also reports an 1892 Quarter with a partly filled reverse die. The letters SES in STATES are missing. While this quarter is a bit unusual, a filled die has to be something really spectacular for the coin to command a premium. So, this coin carries no additional value.

Members will recall Paul Reuter's article, "Barber Quarter Die Cracks" which appeared in the Spring issue of the *Journal*. By listing and describing eighteen such coins in his collection, Paul has pioneered research into a field which has been untouched by authorities like Walter Breen and David Lawrence. Paul has been good enough to provide me with a detailed description of his most unusual Barber Quarter, a 1907-O graded MS-62 by NGC. This description goes beyond





GRADE / SLABBED / PROOF LIKE	HUB TYPE	MINTMARK (Lawrence #)	REVERSE	OBVERSE	STRIKE	LUSTER	EYE APPEAL	SCRATCHES	CORROSION	DINGS	CLEAN
1896-S											
1901-S											
1913-S											
1899-F											



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FF-3

DIE BREAKS  
DD

DATE	POSITION	CLDS
10/10/54	1000	100
10/11/54	1000	100
10/12/54	1000	100
10/13/54	1000	100
10/14/54	1000	100
10/15/54	1000	100
10/16/54	1000	100
10/17/54	1000	100
10/18/54	1000	100
10/19/54	1000	100
10/20/54	1000	100
10/21/54	1000	100
10/22/54	1000	100
10/23/54	1000	100
10/24/54	1000	100
10/25/54	1000	100
10/26/54	1000	100
10/27/54	1000	100
10/28/54	1000	100
10/29/54	1000	100
10/30/54	1000	100
10/31/54	1000	100

COMMENTS





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what is mentioned in his article:

**OBVERSE:** Two die cracks.

- 1) Crack from neck to 13th star and to edge below 12th star.
- 2) Crack from first star to neck.

**REVERSE:** At least nine die cracks!

- 1) Crack from E in QUARTER to edge.
- 2) Crack running between tops of the two R's in QUARTER.
- 3) A similar crack at top of letters in UNITED.
- 4) A heavy crack from left wing to scroll and on to first S in STATES.
- 5) Several star to star cracks.
- 6) Crack from star below OF to O of OF and on to edge.
- 7) Small crack from right edge of scroll to M in AMERICA.
- 8) Crack from edge of coin to top of R, I, C, and last A in AMERICA.
- 9) Crack from arrow shafts to top of D in DOLLAR.

Paul also notes reverse doubling in three different directions:

- 1) All of QUARTER, south and west.
- 2) Most of AMERICA, south and east.
- 3) All of DOLLAR, west.
- 4) Mint Mark.
- 5) Olive branch stem and several leaves.

Given the numerous die breaks on Paul's piece and the fact that the shifts occur in more than one direction, one can conclude that the doubling is not from a doubled die, but from ejection doubling. Although the ejection doubling and the die breaks presently do not add any additional value, I'm sure that Paul's quarter would be an object of great fascination for Barber Die Variety Specialists. Again considering the number of die breaks, this piece is obviously a very late die state and it's hard to conceive of many more coins being struck with this pair of dies before one or both of them shattered completely! B.C.C.S members owning 1907-O Quarters in fine or better might want to check their coins for die cracks and signs of reverse doubling. If enough people respond, we might be able to piece together the progression of these dies and come up with an emission sequence.

I want to thank everyone who has written to the Society concerning unusual features on coins they own. I have opened a file on Barber Die Varieties to keep a record of such inquiries. Feel free to write me at the below address:

J.T. Donohue • B.C.C.S V.P. for Research  
1438 Noah Road  
North Brunswick, N.J. 08902

It would be best to send along the coin in question via insured mail so that it could be forwarded to one of our consultants for verification. Be sure to include

a check to cover return postage. If I get enough questions, "Barber Questions and Answers" will become a regularly scheduled column in the *Journal*.

One final question comes from page 7 of our Spring '92 Journal: "What distinguishing feature would appear under magnification...to confirm that a Barber Half has re-cut stars, letters, or legends?"

Features that have been re-engraved are completely outlined on all sides. This is quite unlike a doubled die whereby the secondary image is shifted in only one direction.

I'll close out this column with an update on Tom Crogan's research on the 1905-O micro-O Dime which also appeared in our Spring issue. Tom states that he has yet to find an example grading higher than XF-45. Joe Haney has an AU which I have seen personally. Another B.C.C.S member who wishes to remain anonymous showed me three nice original AU specimens, one of which is possibly an "Unc." While David Lawrence only reported two uncirculated pieces in existence, I was fortunate enough to discover a third uncirculated specimen in the William W. Moore Collection. This coin was auctioned as lot #755 by Stack's in March 1992. It was graded MS-64 and sold for \$1,540.00, buyer's fee included. I believed it is presently owned by dealer Larry Briggs.

Finally, here are two better grade circulated examples that Tom can add to his list: My own VF specimen and an XF recently cherrypicked by B.C.C.S member Tom Woodward.



## M.A.N.A. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*The Lantern Lodge • Myerstown, PA • October 15-18, 1992*

### THURSDAY

7:00 P.M. Dealer Set-up Begins

### FRIDAY

8:00 A.M. Dealer Set-up Continues

10:00 A.M. Official Opening of  
Convention

6:30 P.M. One Way Traffic to Bourse  
Area

7:00 P.M. Bourse Area Closes to Public

### SATURDAY

8:00 A.M. Bourse Area Opens to Dealers

9:30 A.M. MANA General Membership  
Meeting

10:00 A.M. Bourse Area Opens to Public

10:00 A.M. Young Numismatist Program  
Begins

11:00 A.M. Standing Lib. Quarter  
Collector's Society Meeting

1:00 P.M. Barber Coin Collector's  
Society Meeting

2:00 P.M. Numismatic Bibliomania  
Society Meeting

3:00 P.M. Early American Coppers  
Meeting

4:00 P.M. Education Forum, John Burns,  
Moderator

6:30 P.M. Refreshments Following the  
Forum

6:30 P.M. One Way Traffic to Bourse  
Area

7:00 P.M. Bourse Area Closes to Public

7:00 P.M. Donations Auction

### SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.

10:00 A.M. Bourse Area Opens to Dealers

5:00 P.M. Bourse Area Closes to Public

6:00 P.M. Security Closes



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1900-S XF45	

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1902-O XF .....	140.
1906-O XF .....	125.
1907-D VF30 .....	75.
1907-O XF .....	100.
1908-O XF .....	100.
1912-D XF45	

Light toning .....110.

1912-S XF45 .....	115.
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### QUARTERS

1894-P XF45 .....	50.
1895-P XF .....	45.
1899-O XF45	

Nice luster.....65.

1899-S XF .....	50.
1902-P XF45 .....	45.
1902-O XF45 .....	75.
1902-S XF45 .....	60.
1905-P VF30 .....	25.
1906-P XF .....	40.
1909-D XF .....	45.
1909-S VF30+ .....	35.

1910-P XF .....	40.
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1912-P XF .....	35.
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1913-D XF .....	45.
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1915-D VF30 .....	36.
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1916-D VF30 .....	25.
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### DIMES

1892-P AU Lightly Cleaned.....	35.
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1894-P CH. AU Lightly Cleaned.....	90.
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1899-P CH. AU .....	35.
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1900-S AU .....	45.
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1902-P AU .....	30.
-----------------	-----

1903-O CH. AU .....	80.
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1905-P AU .....	36.
-----------------	-----

1905-S CH. AU .....	50.
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1906-P AU .....	35.
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1908-P AU+ Nice, original.....	35.
-----------------------------------	-----

1909-P AU .....	30.
-----------------	-----

1910-P CH. AU Nice....	45.
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1911-P AU .....	35.
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1911-D AU .....	30.
-----------------	-----

1912-P AU .....	30.
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1912-D AU Nice.....	40.
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1913-P AU Nice.....	40.
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1916-P AU Nice.....	40.
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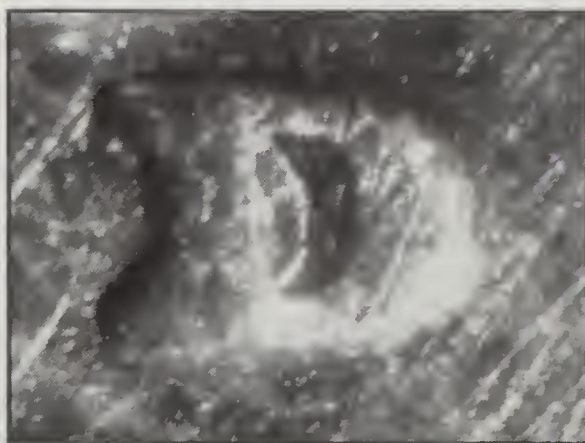
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## VARIETY CORNER

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*Contributor #1: Joe Haney*

Finally, I am able to bring you a new 1916-D/D Barber quarter. I will call it Q9 16D/D. I have looked at a lot of 16-D's since the last reported variety and believe the field to be getting rather thin but will stick to my prediction that more are out there. As you can see by the pictures it is very similar to one or two other 16-D/D's that I've shown. Measurements show otherwise.



**Q9: 1916-D/D**

Another variety to report, is a 1899 Barber Quarter with a repunched date. I have the coin but have not taken photos of it yet. I will try to have them for the next edition. So you can get a head start searching, a brief description. The 8-9-9 all show nice repunching inside to the right in the lower loops and fainter repunching to the right in the upper loops of the 8 and first 9. The '1' shows traces of another punch in front of the serif. It is so minute that I would not mention it, but for the other repunching. An earlier die state in uncirculated might show a third punch. The one I have is AU. GOOD HUNTING

*Note: Refer to J.T. Donohue's article on page 17 for more information.*

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### AN 1894-O DIME WITH LIGHT DIE CRACKS AND MINOR CLASH MARKS

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*Contributor #2: Bill Harris*

I recently purchased an 1894-O dime and noticed that the coin has multiple light die cracks on the obverse and minor die clash marks consistent with the Hustad specimen noted by David Lawrence in *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes*.

#### **Obverse:**

1. Die crack runs across the top of ATES in STATES.
2. Die crack across upper left portion of cap under STAT in STATES.
3. Die crack from dentils across the top of the F in OF which stops halfway to the top of O, only to begin on the far side of the O until it ends at the tip of the second leaf in the wreath.
4. Die crack at base of AM in AMERICA to the middle of the hair over the forehead.



5. Die crack across top of ICA in AMERICA.
  6. Die crack extends from the base of the neck east but not quite to the dentils.
  7. Die crack from the base of the back of the neck which connects with the upper tip of the lower ribbon.
  8. Die clash marks are readily visible at the junction of the chin and neck, and between the upper ribbon and the back of the neck.
- Reverse:** Consistent with the obverse, clearly visible die clash marks above and left of the O and above and right of the E in ONE.

All of the characteristics described above are readily visible using a 10x magnifying glass.

My purpose for this article is not to attempt to take credit for a new 1894-O sub-variety, as there are others who long before me observed these features on their specimens, but rather to document the features on my particular coin with the hope it will be useful to others who share a similar interest in varieties and die states.



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Any member may run a classified ad in the *Journal*. The rules as well as the deadline are much the same as for display advertising. The cost is 10 cents per word, with a \$3.00 minimum. Words count as follows: Date & mint-mark - 1 word; name initials - 1 word; address # - 1 word; zip code - 1 word.

If you have Barbers you want to buy or sell and don't need a lot of space to do it, the *Classified Section* is for you.

**SELL/TRADE** for Certified Barber Quarters: 1892 PCGS MS63 and 1906-S MS66 - halves; 1905-S PCGS MS65 and 1901-O NGC MS64 dimes. Glenn Church, 499 N. Columbia Ave, Columbus, OH 43209. (614) 253-1774.

**WANTED BARBERS EF+:** 10¢: 96-O, 97-S, 98-O, 99-O, 02-S, 07-O, 08-O, 09-S, 10-S; 25¢: 92-S, 97-O, 97-S, 04-O, 05-O, 07-D, 09-O, 11-D, 12-S; 50¢: 98-O, 99-O, 02-O, 06-S, 07-S. Bob Benjamin, 1801 Patton Drive, Modesto, CA 95356.

**1892 50¢ QUINTUPLE REVERSE DIE AU-50:** Very early die state of Lawrence #102, triple rev. die. Reverse stars also show multiple images. Numerous photos included. \$450.00. J.T. Donohue, 1438 Noah Rd., North Brunswick, NJ 08902, or call (908) 249-9512 aft. 12 noon.

**WANTED BARBER DIMES:** Certified by PCGS or NGC MS60 to 63. Will consider 64 & 65 grades. 1892-S, 1894-O, 1894-S, 1896-S, 1897-S, 1899-O, 1900-O, 1901-O, 1901-S, 1902-S, 1903-O, 1904-S, 1907-D, 1909-D, 1909-S. Call Greg @ (217) 398-0163.

**FOR SALE OR TRADE:** 1902-O Barber dime AU but dark \$125, 1903-O UNC obv very lightly polished \$175, 1906-S XF-45 few light obv hairlines \$70. Trade all for 1896-S or 1897-O XF-45 or better. Scott Brockelman, P.O. Box 2114, Hurst, TX 76053. 817-595-4468

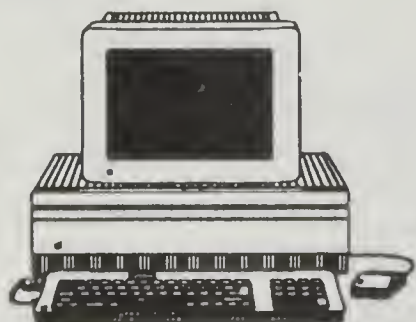
**WANTED: BARBER HALVES:** 1896-S AU to MS. 1907-S AU to MS. Will pay top dollar for nice coins, over ask for sure. Rich Nedved, 3974 Malvini Dr., San Jose, CA 95118. Call collect (408) 267-8284. BCCS #175.

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Use this coupon to run 1 FREE 25-35 word advertisement in the next issue of the Barber Coin Collectors' Society *Journal*. A copy of this coupon will also be accepted.

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### **MEETING INFORMATION**

#### **B.C.C.S EASTERN REGION HOLDS FIRST MEETING AT G.S.N.A. SHOW**

*by J.T. Donohue*

The Eastern Region of the Barber Coin Collector's Society held its first meeting on Saturday, June 27 at the Garden State Numismatic Association Show in Cherry Hill, N.J. Arno Safran had the good sense to take notes from which this account is largely derived. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Regional Vice President Gerald Kochel who turned the meeting over to the Vice President for Research J.T. Donohue who solicited member feedback concerning the *Journal*.

Most were enthusiastic in their praise of our club publication. Quite a few people wanted to see more written about grading Barber coinage. Other requests included information on cameo Barbers and a column on coin "finds" (i.e. scarce date Barbers) picked from junk silver accumulations or found with metal detectors.

Altogether, twelve members were present and some of them had brought Barber coins for other members to look at. Jerry Kochel displayed a complete set of VF/XF Barber Quarters. Even the 1901-S had a full "LIBERTY." Of course, J.T. Donohue showed off his AU 1895-O Dime. He also had an early die state example of the 1892 Triple Reverse Die Half. This coin showed evidence of five different impressions in enlarged photographs of the coin which J.T. brought to the



meeting. Joe Haney had another example of the same variety which showed at least four different impressions. Joe also brought along complete sets of Barber Quarters and Barber Dimes, including an AU 1905-O, "Micro-O" dime. Hank Spangenberg had an 1898-S dime with a die chip above the date. The coin is listed as "extremely rare" in Breen's Encyclopedia (#3513) and Joe was able to verify the coin on the spot. This is what club meetings are all about: Collectors helping each other.

Other B.C.C.S members who were also present included: Bob Masterson, who had put together a complete set of Barber Quarters except for the 1901-S from junk box finds. Given the price of the '96-S and the '13-S, this is quite an achievement. What Bob had done with the quarters, Steve Lessner has been doing with dimes. So far, Steve had acquired four VG 1895-O's, a 1901-S and a BU 1903 - all for silver, i.e. thirty cents each. (Steve, it sounds like you could provide some great stories for that "Coin Finds" column you suggested!)

Ted Textor is working on a VF/XF set of Barber Halves which he has upgraded over the years. He also owns an XF-45 1892-O half. Like Ted, George Drakontides specializes in Barber Halves, with only nine coins left to complete his set. Dennis Fenninger collects mostly good to fine Barbers. Gene Eisenberger likes branch mint Barber Quarters. He has completed 3/4 of the O-mints. Arno Safran has recently completed a set of P-mint dimes in XF-45 or better. Dick Barry was the twelfth member present at the meeting.

Members in attendance varied considerably not only in collecting interests, but also in age. At least four individuals appeared to be in their twenties while others looked to be in their seventies. All age groups in between were also well represented. It is obvious that Barber Coinage has a strong multi-generational appeal and as such is immune to the problem that many see as the plague of numismatics in general, i.e. that it is a dying hobby pursued mostly by senior citizens.

After a short break, Jerry Kochel re-convened the meeting to distribute membership flyers and to inform members of the next Eastern Regional meeting during the Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association Show at the Lantern Lodge Motor Inn in Myerstown, PA. The M.A.N.A. Show is scheduled for October 16-18 and our Eastern Regional Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 17 at 1 p.m. ❖

## Barber Society Commemorative Medals

... remain available at \$11.00 per medal, including postage.

*To order, send your check & shipping info to:*

**B.C.C.S. Medals**

P.O. Box 382246

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*Below is one of the first articles ever written on the 1905-O micro O dime. It was written by the discoverer of the variety in the mid 1940's and appeared in the Volume I #4 issue of Numismatic Review. We gratefully acknowledge and appreciate permission to reprint this article from Lawrence Stack of Stack's.*

## **THE 1905 DIME WITH "MICROSCOPIC MINTMARK"**

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*by Howard R. Newcomb*

The illustration accompanying the article shows a United States dime of the New Orleans Mint, 1905, with what may be called 'a microscopic mintmark. Specimens are believed to be of excessive rarity, and they are little known among collectors.

Since mintmarks are added separately to dies, even in very recent times slight differences are of course to be expected within any issue of a single year and mint. But so marked a difference from the normal size of the letters is found in this instance, constitutes rather a major than a minor variety. It is to be presumed from the rarity with which specimens turn up that only one die was made with the peculiarly small "o" and the coin seems decidedly worthy of more attention from collectors and students than it seems hitherto to have received. "Microscopic" is of course used rather in a vivid than strict sense, for one requisite of a major variety is that it should be something that can be seen with the naked eye. But the "O" is so tiny that the term microscopic mintmark variety of the 1905-O dime is one that may be acceptable in listing the specimens.

*Editor's Postscript - Thanks in part to the efforts of Society members, the 1993 Redbook has listed values for the micro O dime for the first time up to and including MS60. Also ANAAB authentication bureau now certifies the variety on the slab. We feel it will just be a matter of time before the other authentication services and value guides separately attribute this scarce, but very popular variety. See J.T. Donohue's "Question & Answers" column for more information.*



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### **MEETING INFORMATION**

#### **NEXT B.C.C.S EASTERN REGION MEETING**

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The next Eastern Region of the Barber Coin Collector's Society meeting will be held during the Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association Show at the Lantern Lodge Motor Inn in Myerstown, N.J. The MANA Show is scheduled for October 16-18 and our Eastern Regional Meeting will be held Saturday, October 17 at 1 p.m.

*The MANA show schedule of events appears on page 27 of this Journal.*





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## BARBER QUARTER SURVEY: Part I

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### *Note to Survey Respondents:*

*Please use the survey form stapled into the center of this Journal. Thank you.*

In part one of our survey of Barber quarters we are including only the "BIG THREE" plus the 1899-P as a control. There are three spaces provided for each date. If you have more than three please use the back of this form or a separate piece of paper. The identities of all respondents will remain confidential. Results will be published in a future issue of the Journal. In completing the survey form you will need to use the following information and codes for the various categories.

**GRADE/SLABBED/PROOFLIKE:** For this category we would like to know the numerical grade of your coin, if it is slabbed, by whom, and if it is prooflike.

A-ANACS; N-NGC; P-PCGS; O-other; R-raw; pl-prooflike

*Example:* 55-PCGS pl would indicate an AU-55 coin slabbed by PCGS with prooflike surfaces.

**HUB TYPE/MINTMARK:** You will find an accompanying article which will help you identify the obverse and reverse hub types. For the mintmark and date positions you can consult the accompanying diagrams from David Lawrence's book as shown on page 29, as well as Ken Hill's photos beginning on page 30.

**STRIKE/LUSTER/EYE APPEAL:** Please use the following code for these areas.  
+ for superior; ✓ for average; - for poor

**SCRATCHES/DINGS/CORROSION:** Indicate location by O-obverse; R-reverse; and extent by L-light; M-moderate; H-heavy. If the problem occurs on both sides do not use O or R.

**CLEANED:** Again use O-obverse; R-reverse; L-light; M-moderate; H-heavy; along with P-polished; D-dipped; S-scrubbed; HL-hairlined; W-whizzed.

**CLASHED DIES/EAR STRIATIONS:** If your coin has ear striations (which are the result of clashed dies) use only the ES column. Use a check (✓) for yes.

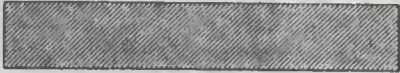
**PRD/PRM/DD:** If your coin has a repunched date, a repunched mintmark, or is from a doubled die use a check (✓) for yes. Under comments elaborate on the degree, direction, etc.

**DIE BREAKS/CUDS:** Again check (✓) for yes and explain under comments.

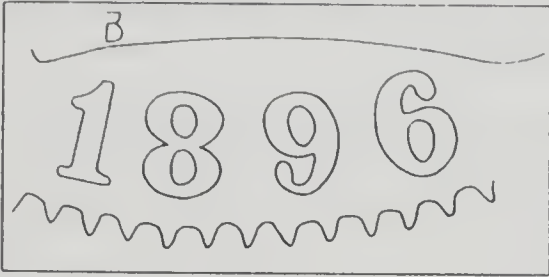
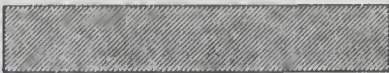




The following diagrams have been reproduced with permission from David Lawrence's book, "The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters" © 1989.



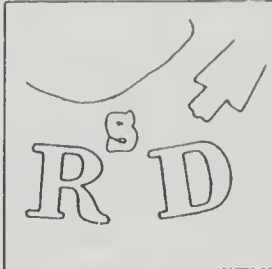
1896-S



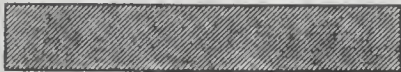
Position of genuine date.



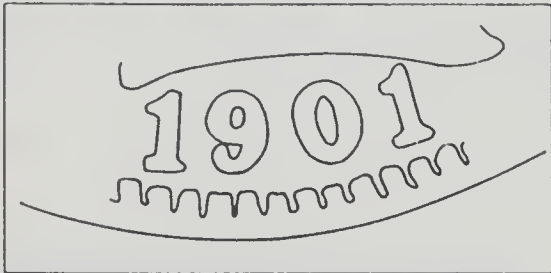
201. MM slightly closer to D than R.



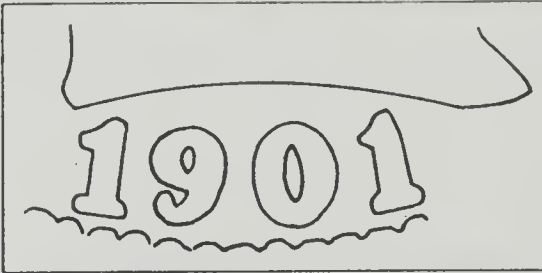
202. MM closer to R than D.



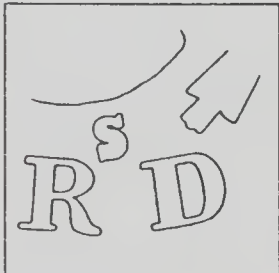
1901-S



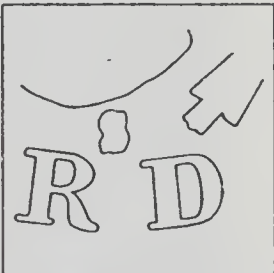
OBV. A. First 1 in date centered over denticle. Second 1 close to bust.



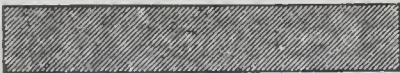
OBV. B. Both 1's overlap denticles.



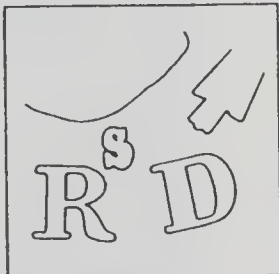
301. S1 nearly in line with R4.



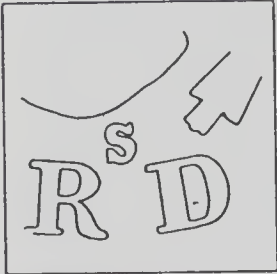
302. MM closer to center and higher than (301).



1913-S



301. S1 almost in line with R4.



302. MM slightly higher and closer to center than (301).

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# IDENTIFICATION OF OBVERSE AND REVERSE TYPES OF THE BARBER 25¢

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*by Kenneth R. Hill*

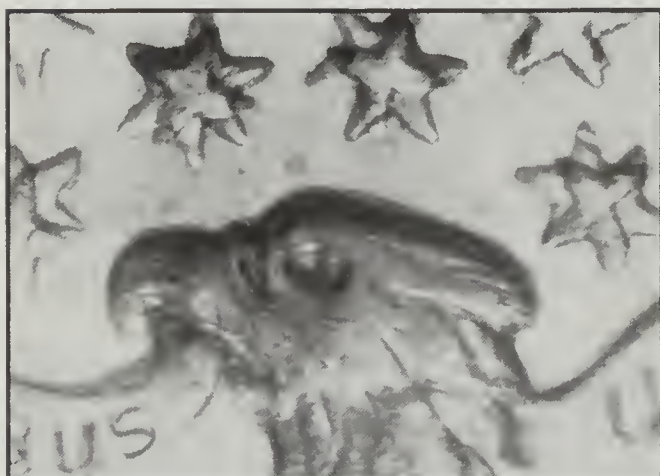
The intent of this article is to help in filling out the Barber Quarter survey form which is enclosed in this issue of the Journal.

There were two obverses and three reverses used for Barber Quarters. They are all fairly easy to distinguish from one another even on low grade coins.

Obverse 1 was used from 1892 through 1900. The ear of Liberty is open on type one obverses. (PHOTO ONE) The ribbon end nearest Liberty's neck has a longer fork than that of obverse two. The length of each ribbon end is .5mm and the fork forms a rounded acute (less than 90 degree) angle. (PHOTO TWO)

Obverse 2 was used from 1901 through 1916. The opening in the ear of Liberty is divided. (PHOTO THREE) The ribbon end nearest Liberty's neck has a shorter fork and the ends measure 0.4mm in length. The angle formed by these ends is approximately 90 degrees. (PHOTO FOUR)

Striated Ear of 1896-S. The opening in the ear has five sloping lines caused by clashed dies. (PHOTO FIVE)



Superimposed Type I over Type II



Photo #1

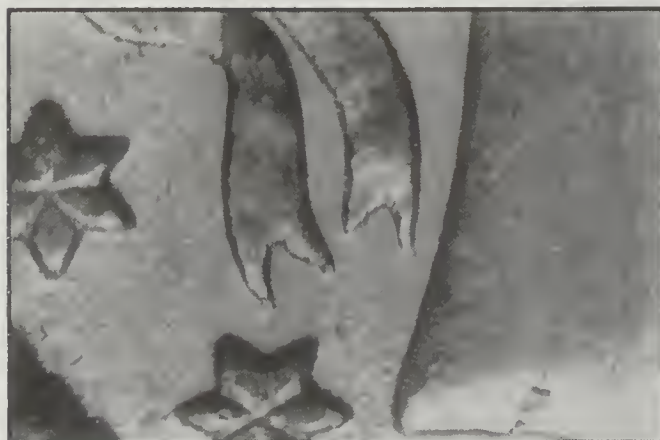


Photo #2

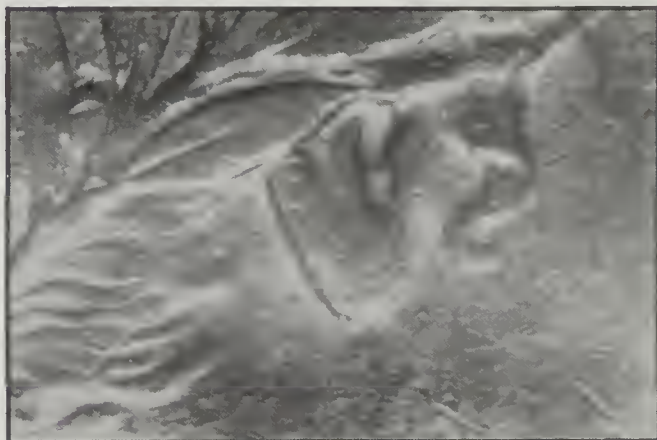


Photo #3



Reverse 1 was used only in 1892. There are a number of differences between reverses one and two. The easiest way to distinguish reverse one from two is to look at the eagle's right wing which covers part of the E in UNITED. On type one reverses the center serif of E is visible. (PHOTO SIX) On low grade examples where this no longer shows one will have to look at the stars in order to classify type one or two. Any of the stars will work, but if you look at the lowest two center stars their lowest points point left and right. (PHOTO SEVEN)

Reverse 2 was used from 1892 through 1900. The eagle's right wing covers more of the E in UNITED. The center serif is not visible. (PHOTO EIGHT) The two lowest stars in the center point at the eagle's beak and head. (PHOTO NINE)

Reverse 3 was used from 1900 through 1916. On this reverse the eagle's right wing overlaps the E in UNITED and extends into the field toward the denticles. (PHOTO TEN) The placement of the stars on reverse 2 and 3 are the same.

The information in this article came from articles/books by David Lange, Walter Breen, and David Lawrence along with personal observations.



Photo #4

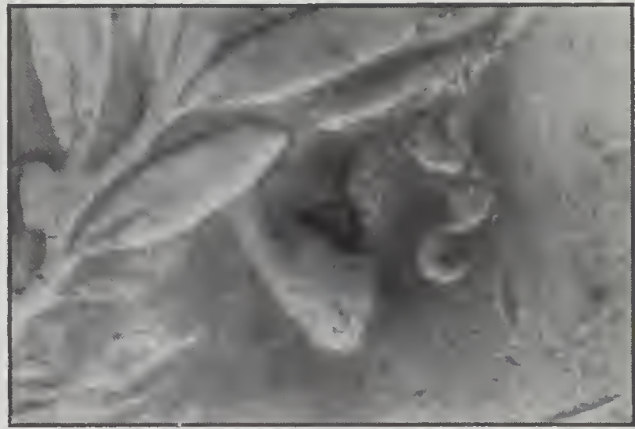


Photo #5



Photo #6



Photo #7





Photo #8

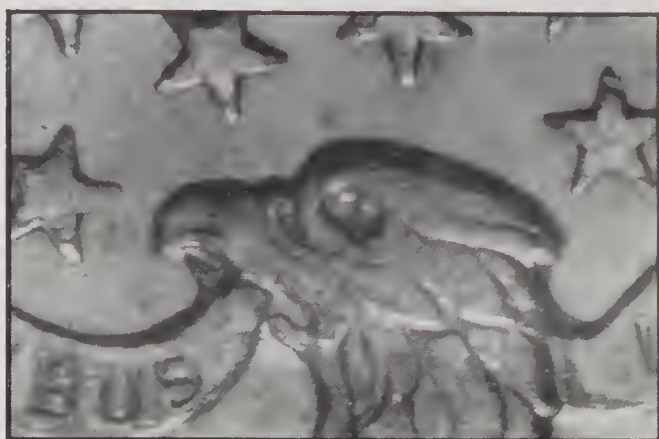


Photo #9

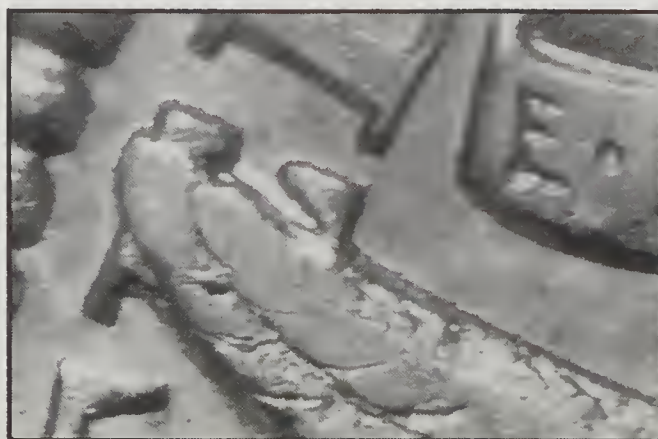


Photo #10

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## ESTIMATING SCARCITY ON BARBER DIMES AND QUARTERS

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*by Scott Brockelman*

As mentioned in the last issue of the *Journal*, this article will cover my observations of scarcity on selected dates and mintmarks of Barber dimes and quarters. For the sake of brevity and boredom I won't discuss mint state coins. We can all read population reports. What I want to cover are coins from VG to XF; the grades I believe most of our members collect in date and mintmark sets. My observations may even have to do with geographical location, which I feel is a factor in the finding of some mintmarks.

Starting with the dimes most would agree that the coins of the 1890's are much tougher than those of the 1900's, even those of the Philadelphia mint. Most will say the 1892 is the most common date, being the first year of mintage; but in circulated condition the 1898 seems the most common. Of the three tough Philadelphia mints, 1894, 1895 and 1896, the most frequently encountered is the 1894 in VG to XF, even though it trends higher than the 1896. The 1896 is very scarce in F or better. Try to find one at a major show. The 1895 is the scarcest Philadelphia coin, but only in higher circulated grades of VF to XF. All other coins of the Philadelphia mint should prove easy to locate given time, the 1893 being only slightly difficult.

Staying with the 1890's we go to the San Francisco mint. I believe the 1896

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to be the toughest, followed closely by the 1897, not the 1892, which I feel is a close third. The 1895 which many claim to be scarce is available at most shows, or on dealer pricelists. The 1898-S also proves to be a challenge above F while the 1899-S is the most common. Perhaps since I live in Texas this can be explained geographically. I find no problem locating New Orleans coins which we will discuss next.

The 1895-O, which is truly the key in VF or better is a coin that is usually available in G-VG or even F. Because of its popularity it seems as though many dealers have one. The 1896-O and 1897-O seem to be of similar scarcity though many will say the 1897-O is easier because of the higher number of certified mint state coins. The 1898-O comes next on our scale, and because of weak strike, few have survived nicely. The 1893-O also proves to be a tough date, along with 1894-O which is not as scarce as people think as several can usually be found. The 1899-O also seems to be overrated, and the 1892-O is the most common because of its large mintage.

Although many dimes of the 1900's carry big price tags, most can be found in circulated condition with a little time and patience. All Philadelphia coins can be said to be "common" in VG to XF, even though we all know nice original XF's are hard to find. If any are scarce the 1915 with its low mintage may qualify.

Taking a look at the San Francisco mint, the 1903-S is the key in my opinion, and not the 1901-S. Recent increases in trends prices show this as well. The 1904-S is scarce in VG to XF, but try to find a nice 1908-S or 1909-S, the real sleeper in the series. I looked two years for mine and I'm still not happy with the one I have. If you're looking for either one of these dates, don't pass on any nice VF or XF coin. They're hard to find. The 1910-S appears to be overrated, as are the 1905-S and 1906-S in circulated grades. The 1902-S is scarce but available as are the 1915-S, 1914-S and 1916's. The 1913-S is readily available in G to F. Above that it becomes elusive even though large numbers were pulled from circulation once its low mintage was discovered.

The New Orleans mint that stopped producing coins after 1909 has a few tougher dates, but none considered scarce except the 1905-O Micro O. Most are very easily found with due time. The only exception seems to be the 1908-O, which can be extremely difficult to locate in original problem free condition. The 1900-O has made a dramatic price increase in the last twelve to eighteen months. While the coin is available in G to VG, any higher grades prove to be fairly hard to find. However, you may find some bargains in old dealer stock books at old price levels. The coin does appear to be fully priced at this time.

The 1900's bring a new mint into the picture. In 1906 the Denver mint began to produce Barber dimes and quarters, although none can be considered rare, the 1909-D is very scarce in any grade above F. It is followed closely by the 1907-D. Many stories abound about this date citing a lost wagon train carrying coins from the mint, that were supposedly never recovered. I personally feel this is a very difficult coin to locate in VF or XF. I also believe that some of the coins were indeed recovered from the wagons as I have examined many XF to UNC



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coins that display numerous bag and heavy contact marks, much more than normal. I believe these coins are part of the lost hoard.

This brings me to a conclusion to the dime series that many of you may see as no surprise. However, I hope that many also gained another persons' insight into this elusive series. I feel the 1909-S and 1909-D are the two toughest coins to find versus current prices while other big dates and mints like the 1900-O may have already made their big moves. I also feel you will see the 1895-O and 1903-S continue to make major moves due to low mintage, availability and tremendous collector demand. But then again I hardly ever pass up a better date coin in XF or better at a reasonable price.

As we move into the quarter series I believe we will find even more startling conclusions. The Barber Quarter series appears to be the most popular of the three collected by date and mint mark, especially in middle grades, even though it contains the "big three". Many collectors start with lower grade coins and upgrade their sets as they go, making the search more of a challenge and minimizing out of pocket cash as each transaction takes place. I believe they find a big difference when going from grade to grade, while a coin may be common in VG or F it may become impossible in nice VF or XF.

As most of you know, all of the Philadelphia mint coins are easier to find in VG and F. The coins of the early to mid-1890's are increasingly more difficult to locate in VF or XF, especially 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896. Most other Philadelphia years can be found; even those which are supposed to be weakly struck. It just takes time and patience, or the thrill of the hunt, however you see it.

Moving on to the more costly and challenging San Francisco mint coins we seem to find several issues which are scarce, rare or downright impossible to find. In other words I don't believe you can call any of them readily available or common. The 1894-S seems to be the most frequently encountered, followed closely by the 1900-S. The next tier would appear to include the 1909-S and the 1915-S, which is not as scarce as many think. The next group are very scarce and will take time and searching; they include the 1895-S, 1898-S, 1902-S, 1903-S, 1905-S, 1907-S and 1908-S. Some will disagree, but the 1908-S seems to be available from VG to VF on a regular basis. Now we are down to what I call rare. These include the 1892-S, 1893-S, 1896-S (only in F or better), 1899-S, 1911-S, 1912-S and 1914-S (again only in F or better). The 1914-S is the single most over-rated coin of the entire series. It is always available in AG to VG, I personally know a dealer who has a roll to a roll and a half in each grade at any time. Only one other coin in the series enjoys this hype and I'll discuss it later.

We are now to the downright impossible. Only three coins fall into this category. The first is the 1897-S, which is impossible to find in VF or better regardless of what trends or bid is. Don't pass on this coin. I sold one to a dealer friend a year ago and have kicked myself since. I cannot replace it. The second coin is the 1901-S which appears regularly in AG-G but find a full rim VG and you have a keeper. F to XF specimens trade very seldom and are worth almost any premium asked. The third and I believe the toughest is the 1913-S. I have observed a few AG coins none of which would make G by my definition. To find a full VG



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to XF will take a great deal of searching; not a great deal of money.

The New Orleans mint which produced coins from 1892 to 1909 offers little surprises. We know that all are difficult to locate in VF or better. The first four years of issue prove to be the easier, with the 1896-O and 1897-O are available but expensive. All the rest with the exception of two are available but require constant shopping at shows and coin publications. The 1909-O is hard to find in VF or better, but the 1901-O is by far the most difficult. I looked for more than a year to find a full rim good. In VG to F it is extremely scarce and VF or XF specimens are worth every penny and are far underpriced despite their adequate mintage.

Beginning in 1906 the Denver mint began to produce the Barber Quarter in relatively high numbers, but again many are very hard to locate. By far the most common are the 1916-D, 1914-D and the 1909-D. The 1906-D, 1907-D and 1908-D are scarce but available in VF to XF. The 1915-D is tougher than one might imagine in VF to XF. The 1911-D while often said to be the Denver key is not as scarce as it would seem to be. G to F specimens are available while VF and XF coins do seem to hold their rarity. The tougher dates seem to be the 1910-D and 1913-D in Full VF and XF, these coins had lower mintages and not many seem to have survived. I believe them to be fully as scarce as the 1911-D.

The Barber Quarter series holds many wonderful thrills especially if one delights in looking for coins at shows and through the weekly periodicals. They provide a hunt for nice, properly graded coins. None should be regarded as run of the mill; but some should be prized as cream of the crop. ❖

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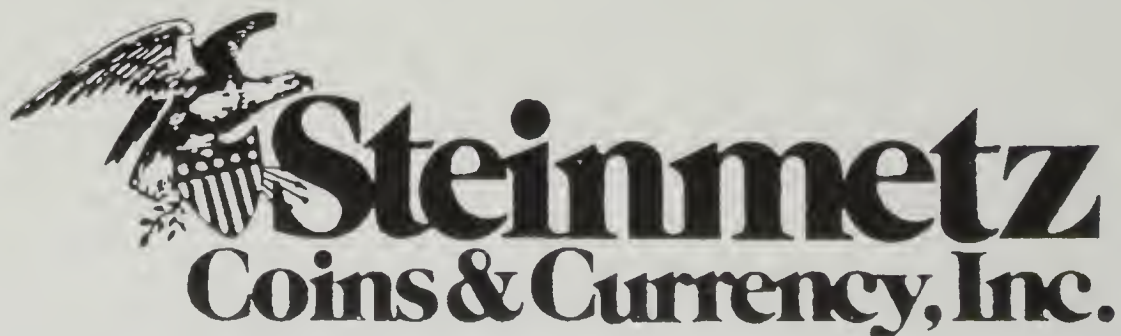
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